AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended). A derivative of azithromycin as base or in the form of an acid addition salt which is ~~selected from the group of~~

3'-(*N*,*N*-didemethyl)-3'-*N*-~~formyl] azithromycin~~ formylazithromycin of formula 2;

~~3'-*N* demethyl 3'-*N* formylazithromycin of formula 3,~~

~~3'-ketoazithromycin of formula 4,~~

~~3'-aminoazithromycin of formula 6.~~

~~3'-de(dimethylamino) 3',4'-didehydroazithromycin of formula 7, and~~

~~(3R,6R,8R,9R,10S,11S,12R)-11-[(2,6-dideoxy-3-*C*-methyl-3-*O*-methyl-α-L-*ribo*-hexopyranosyl)oxy]-2-[(1R,2R)-1,2-dihydroxy-1-methylbutyl]-8-hydroxy-3,4,6,8,10,12-hexamethyl-9-[(3,4,6-trideoxy-3-(dimethylamino)-β-D-*xylo*-hexopyranosyl)oxy]-1-oxa-4-azacyclotridecan-13-one of formula 8~~.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended). A pharmaceutical composition comprising ~~at least one~~ the derivative of azithromycin according to claim 1.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended). A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1 comprising a mixture of

i) ~~at least one~~ the derivative of azithromycin according to claim 1, and

ii) any azithromycin base or salt in any crystalline, polymorphic or amorphous form, wherein the weight ratio of the at least one derivative described in i) and azithromycin as described in ii) is between 0.1 and 99.

Claims 4 – 5 (Cancelled).

Claim 6 (Original). A process for preparing 3'-(*N*,*N*-didemethyl)-3'-*N*-formylazithromycin of formula 2 comprising formylation of 3'-aminoazithromycin of formula 6.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended). A process according to claim 6 wherein the ~~formulation~~ formylation of 3'-aminoazithromycin is carried out by using formic acetic anhydride.

Claims 8 – 17 (Cancelled).